

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 151313Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1615
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T KUWAIT 4558

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, MILL, MOPS, LE, IS, SY, KU
SUBJECT: FRENCH EMBASSY INQUIRY REGARDING POSSIBLE US
DEMARCHE TO GOK ON MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO ADF

REF: KUWAIT 4475

1. I RECEIVED A CALL AUGUST 15 FROM FRENCH CHARGE D'AFFAIRS
CLAUDE PETIET, WHO INQUIRED INTO THE NATURE OF MY RECENT
DISCUSSION ON LEBANON WITH THE KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER (REFTEL).
HE SAID THAT, AS I PROBABLY KNEW, HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS
IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PARIS ON
THE SUBJECT OF LEBANON. THE QUAY APPARENTLY HAD INFORMATION
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TO THE EFFECT THAT AMBASSADOR ATHERTON, DURING HIS RECENT
VISIT TO RIYADH, HAD RAISED WITH SAUDI ARABIA THE POSSIBILITY
OF ITS INCREASING ITS MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARAB
DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) IN LEBANON AND ENCOURAGING SUDAN AND THE
UAE TO DO LIKEWISE. THERE ALLEGEDLY WAS ALSO A SUGGESTION
THAT KUWAIT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SEND A MILITARY CONTINGENT
TO JOIN THE ADF.

2. THE FRENCH CHARGE ASKED WHETHER I HAD MADE A SIMILAR SUGGESTION TO KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD AND, IF SO, WHAT HIS REACTION WAS. I INFORMED THE CHARGE THAT I DID NOT RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD NOR DID I HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT IT WAS DISCUSSED BY AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WITH THE SAUDIS IN RIYADH. I EXPLAINED THAT, DURING MY DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, I HAD EXPRESSED US CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN LEBANON AND EXPLAINED THE EFFORTS THE US WAS MAKING TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT TO ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED. I ADDED THAT SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD HAD PROVIDED SOME DETAILS CONCERNING HIS JULY VISIT TO LEBANON, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PRESIDENT SARKIS' LACK OF INTEREST IN A KUWAITI OFFER TO TRY TO ORGANIZE AN ARAB CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO FIND SOME SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE CRISIS. I NOTED ALSO THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HIS CURRENT VIEW WAS THAT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON HAD CHANGED AND THAT A SOLUTION TO LEBANESE PROBLEMS COULD ONLY COME FROM THE VARIOUS LEBANESE FACTIONS THEMSELVES.

3. THE FRENCH CHARGE THANKED ME FOR THIS INFORMATION AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT IT TO PARIS.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE RECEIVED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING ATHERTON'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAUDIS IN RIYADH AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED WHETHER A SUGGESTION

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REGARDING A POSSIBLE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADF, SUCH AS DESCRIBED BY THE FRENCH CHARGE, WAS FLOATED WITH THE SAUDIS AND WHAT, IF ANY, WAS THE SAUDI REACTION. (IN FACT, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO HAVE AT LEAST A SUMMARY OF ATHERTON'S CONVERSATIONS IN RIYADH, AND ALSO IN AMMAN FOR THAT MATTER.) AS FOR KUWAIT, I AM REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THE GOK WOULD HAVE NO RPT NO INTEREST IN INTRODUCING ANY OF ITS SOLDIERS INTO THE LEBANESE FRACAS.
MAESTRONE

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